

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

7 OCTOBER 2008

### **Perth Community Gathers to Remember**

Around 1,000 people are expected to attend a special St Luke's Day Service on October 16 to remember family members and friends who have died in palliative care in the last year.

The Service, hosted by Palliative Care WA Inc, has been held in Perth every year since 1982. The Service is named after St Luke, the patron saint of physicians. St Luke's Day is celebrated on 18 October each year.

The organiser of the Service, the Reverend Graeme Manolas, said "The Service is an opportunity for people of all walks of life to come together with palliative care service providers to remember and celebrate the lives of people close to them."

"Palliative Care WA is proud to offer this Service to people from all religions and spiritual backgrounds. We have found over the years that many people value an opportunity to come together to remember their loved ones in a ritual of this kind," said the Reverend Manolas.

The Executive Officer of Palliative Care WA, Mr Will Hallahan, said "About 12,000 people die in WA each year, many from illnesses like cancer or organ failure. We need a lot more support and information for those dealing with dying, death and bereavement as patients, carers, families and communities."

"The Annual St Luke's Day Service, which recognises and remembers the lives of those who have died, and supports people who have lost a family member or friend, is an important part of the community life of Perth and WA," said Mr Hallahan.

**What: Annual St Luke's Day Service**  
**When: 7:15PM, Thursday 16 October 2008**  
**Where: Winthrop Hall, University of Western Australia**  
**Who: Palliative Care WA Inc – state peak body for palliative and end of life care**  
**How Much: No Charge**

Reverend Manolas is available for interview on 0418 952 445.

Mr Hallahan is available for interview on 0412 412 532.